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Identical letters dated 15 March 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, and further to my identical letters of 2 January 2018 (S/2018/6), 5 January 2018 (S/2018/23), 7 March 2018 (S/2018/207) and 9 March 2018 (S/2018/213) addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council, I should like to draw your attention to a serious act of escalation by the United Arab Emirates that directly threatens international security and peace.

At 0822 hours local time on Sunday, 4 March 2018, a United Arab Emirates CN-35 military transport aircraft (registration No. UAF 812) was observed approaching Qatari airspace. The aircraft (transponder code 1753/mode 3) was travelling from the emirate of Abu Dhabi at a speed of 210 knots and an altitude of 15,000 feet, and its heading was 286 degrees. Some 52 miles from Doha at 188 degrees, the aircraft changed its heading to 332 degrees and proceeded towards Qatari airspace. At 0827 hours, the aircraft was contact by the VHF/UHF Guard system when it was some 5 miles from Qatari airspace. However, the aircraft did not respond and continued on its course.

At 0828 hours, the aircraft entered Qatari airspace some 50 miles from Doha at 201 degrees. At that very same time, orders were given to scramble aircraft. In the course of the violation, the United Arab Emirates aircraft flew 3 miles deep into Qatari airspace and travelled for 11 miles before leaving at 0831 hours some 56 miles from Doha at 212 degrees. The above-mentioned aircraft flew over area OTD-2 at an altitude of 15,000 feet, despite the fact that the TPY-2 radar was operating and the minimum safe altitude for the area covered by that radar is 19,000 feet.

This serious incident constitutes a grave and flagrant violation of international law. Moreover, the repeated violations of the sovereignty of Qatar by the United Arab Emirates and its attempts to contrive incidents in order to heighten tensions in the region, without any consideration for the security and stability of Qatar, will have grave repercussions for regional security and stability. Acting on the basis of Articles 34 and 35 of the Charter of the United Nations, Qatar wishes to draw once again the attention of the Security Council to this serious incident and to call upon the Organization yet again to take the measures required under the Charter to maintain international peace and security, and put an end to the repeated and tendentious violations committed by the United Arab Emirates.

Qatar has demonstrated that it continues to pursue a policy of self-restraint in response to the irresponsible practices of and provocative actions taken by the United

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Arab Emirates that are aimed at undermining regional security and stability and impeding political efforts to bring about regional peace and stability. Qatar strongly condemns and rejects any violation of its sovereignty and territorial integrity, and reserves its full right to respond to any violations, as is its inherent sovereign right. Moreover, Qatar will not hesitate to take the measures required to defend its sovereignty, borders, airspace, maritime space and national security, in accordance with international law and norms.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Alya Ahmed Saif **Al-Thani**
Permanent Representative

Annex to the identical letters dated 15 March 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council